

COMING TO SCHOOL AT ROSSETT ACRE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Our Vision

In the Early Years at Rossett Acre Primary School, our vision is to achieve excellence and happiness for all by providing a caring and stimulating environment where every child feels empowered to develop as an independent learner. We seek to foster a love for challenge, and resilience to failure.

Preparing Your Child for School



A very warm welcome to Early Years at Rossett Acre Primary School! We are often asked how parents can best prepare their children for school, so here are some suggestions.

Many of the children in our Early Years classes have been to a pre-school setting, so they are familiar with taking part in activities with a group of children and other adults. They will be becoming familiar with routines so hopefully their transition to school will be straightforward. However, we feel it is important to familiarise your child with the idea of moving on and meeting new children and adults. This should be communicated to your child as an exciting experience with many new and interesting activities. Many of the activities at school will be similar to home, nursery and playgroup, but there will be new and different ones too!

To help your child transition to school we will:

- Invite your child to school for **Taster Visits** during June and July. During these visits you will bring your child to school where they will come for a short play with Early Years staff and other new children. Parents can remain in the school hall, where tea and coffee will be provided. This allows your child a taste of coming to school independently!
- Invite you and your child to a **Stay and Play** session in September. You will both be able to explore your new classroom, find out where your peg and drawer are, and have some time to play before your first full day at school. Parents are invited to remain with their child for these sessions if they wish, and you can attend both morning and afternoon sessions if you like.
- Invite you to our **Early Years Information Evening** in the Autumn term to help you find out how your child will be playing and learning at school.
- **Communicate** with you whenever necessary. Communication between home and school is fundamental to your child's well-being. Children feel positive about school knowing there is contact between parents and staff. We are very happy to talk to you about any aspect of your child's learning. Please ask to talk to us if you need to - first thing in the morning is the best time for any last minute information. You can also use Tapestry to communicate with us.

Preparing Your Child for School

In readiness for school, please try to encourage your child to:

- Dress and undress independently, **especially coats and shoes**
- **Tidy** away toys and books after use
- **Take turns** when sharing games/activities
- **Listen** at appropriate times and follow simple instructions
- Know when it is time to go to the toilet, and use the toilets **independently**: to be able to wipe, use the flush and wash their hands
- **Feed him/herself** and use a knife, fork and spoon



Settling in

Your child will be part of a class of up to 30 children. School starting dates will be staggered and take place over the first week of school. To begin with, children will be sorted in classes by surname. We will spend the first half-term getting to know the children and then set classes by the end of term (late October). Children will attend school on a full-time basis straight away. If your child struggles with this, please let us know and we can adjust their transition to suit his/her needs. **Please tell your child's teacher if you wish to reduce their sessions to part time for a short time.** This system has worked well for some children in the past.

Getting to know your child

Prior to school starting, Early Years staff will communicate with pre-school staff, and where possible will visit your child in their pre-school setting.

The Early Years staff will undertake baseline observations/assessments during the Autumn Term. These are statutory and form part of our whole school assessments. They will help us to plan the activities that are needed to help your child progress. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Profile continues to help us to assess the child's achievements in detail throughout the year.

You will be invited into school to discuss your child's progress with us at a formal Parents' Evening (twice per year).

You will be able to access your child's learning journey via Tapestry. There will also be a written report at the end of the year and an opportunity to discuss its contents with the teacher(s) if you wish.

Most importantly, we would like you and your child to feel **happy** at Rossett Acre. We want children to feel confident in themselves and respected for who they are. We also hope they will learn to value and respect the needs of others and will acknowledge and celebrate diversity. We expect high standards of behaviour from all our children, we work with the children to establish a safe learning community where we are Ready, Respectful and Safe.

Our Day in Early Years

Our Day

You can drop your child off between **8:40am and 8:50am**. All children say goodbye to their parents at the gate and then enter through Miss Christie's classroom and get busy at a group activity. Our first carpet time is a phonics lesson, followed by guided reading sessions. We have a healthy snack in the morning session. We have another carpet time before lunch, which is normally literacy or theme based.

After lunch we have a daily maths lesson on the carpet. The rest of our day is spent playing, either in the classroom or outside. The children get to choose where they would like to play and what activities they would like to do. As the year progresses we begin to do focus activities with an adult, either in small groups or individually.

We have a second maths carpet time at the end of the day, and then near bedtime we have a big tidy up, have our milk and have a story before we go home. We line the children up in separate classes and bring them to the gates at **3:20pm**.

Learning in the Early Years

As a team we embrace the philosophy that children learn through play. Through active involvement children learn life skills; extend their imagination, creative skills, physical development and communication and thinking skills. We encourage children to use a range of resources to support their activities and actively encourage children to play alongside or with others to build on their collaborative skills. Equally we encourage children to become independent, managing their own belongings, finding their own activities and making decisions.

Through careful observation we discover what and how children are learning, how they communicate and how we can best provide for the next stage of their learning. We support them in their play by listening to them, watching them, providing and encouraging questions and extending their thinking.

Food

Children can have a school meal, or bring a packed lunch to school. All children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 currently receive a free school meal, however if you think you may qualify for Pupil Premium, we would be grateful if you would complete the form on the school website. [Click here for link](#). If you do decide to choose packed lunches for your child, we encourage healthy choices, and please **no nuts**, we have children and adults in school with significant allergies.

Children will be provided with a healthy snack, which we have mid-morning. They will also receive milk to drink in the afternoon. Milk is provided up to the age of five, you can register with Cool Milk if you wish your child to continue to receive milk in school after their fifth birthday. Children should bring a water bottle to school every day - we do not allow juice in school.

What some of our past parents and children have to say about Early Years at Rossett Acre Primary School

Each child and their learning, personal & social needs are treated individually with love, care & nurture. Thea has thrived in Early Years with the support of the wonderful TA's. Thea absolutely adores them all & it is down to them that she is a brave learner who loves coming to school. THANK YOU!

I like school because it's fun. I love the train track the most and building with my friends. My teachers are kind.



We honestly couldn't be more impressed with the education our daughter receives at Rossett Acre. She has loved it from day one! The physical environment of the Early Years setting is so spacious and well organised and the children take real pride in navigating the different areas independently. The teachers are clearly so passionate about the job that they do; knowledgeable, committed and approachable, they form great relationships with the children in their care. We could not have asked for a better start to her school journey and hope she continues to thrive and build on the excellent foundations formed during her time in Early Years.

And finally...

We are looking forward to welcoming your children to our school! Although transition to 'big school' can seem a bit scary, it is also an exciting time and we cannot wait to get to know our new children and see them learn and develop over the next year. Click the links below to get some great tips on preparing your child for this new adventure!

[Pacey Starting School Guide for Parents](#)

[What to Expect in the Early Years](#)

Useful Dates and Information

School Taster Visits

(Drop children off for an hour to play in the Early Years classrooms)

Monday 24th June:

10am - 11am **and** 1:30pm - 2:30pm

Thursday 4th July:

10am - 11am **and** 1:30pm - 2:30pm

Wednesday 10th July:

10am - 11am **and** 1:30pm - 2:30pm

Teddy Bear Picnic

Children and their parents/carers can bring a teddy and a picnic to enjoy on the school field - a chance to meet other families and chat with the Early Years team.

Monday 2nd September:

12pm - 1:45pm

Stay and Play Day

(Come visit the class with your child, drop-in. You can come to both sessions and stay the whole duration or just come for a while)

Tuesday 3rd September:

9am - 10am **and** 1:30pm - 2:30pm



First Day of School – Staggered Entry Days

Wednesday 4th September

or

Thursday 5th September

or

Friday 6th September

All children in school on Monday 9th September

Further information on your child's first day at school will be communicated in the summer term.

What to Bring to School

- Bookbag – we prefer these to backpacks as they fit in the children's trays in the classroom. There isn't much room in the cloakroom!
- Water bottle
- **PE kits not needed until spring term - we will remind you in advance**
- Change of clothes/underwear (if you think your child might need them)
- Wellies (to be left in school)
- Coat (even on a dry day!)
- Weather dependent – sun hat, gloves, scarf etc.

*Please make sure **everything** is labelled with your child's name – if it can come off your child, it can get lost!*